

Sunday, June 26, 2022 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Welcome Pastor Laura Aase

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (507-962-3270)

Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582) nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com

Worship Leaders:

Music – Glenda McGaffee
Lay Reader – Brenda Beyer
Deacon – Diana Buffington
Ushers: Randy & Brenda Beyer
Randy & Deb Warner



Introduction

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME" #798

- 1.) **Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

- 2.) Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?
- 3.) Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
- 4.) Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
- 5.) Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where you love and foot-steps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

GREETING.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE (sung) pg. 203

- 1.) Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
- 2.) Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
- 3.) Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your
saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Sung) pg. 204

- 1.) Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
- 2.) Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

**3.) Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 19:15-16, 19-21

¹⁵Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 16

R: Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

C: All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

R: But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

C: I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

R: O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

C: My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

R: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

C: I have set the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

R: My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

C: For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

R: You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: GALATIANS 5:1, 13-25

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

R: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – PG. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." **P: Gospel of our Lord C: Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE" #697

(Refrain)

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 1.) I am weak but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

(Refrain)

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 2.) Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.**

(Refrain)

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 3.) When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.**

(Refrain)

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of grace C: Hear our prayer

OFFERING HYMN: "Lead Me Guide Me" #768

(Refrain)

**Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

1.) I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to help me over my weakest hour. Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(Refrain)

Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

2.) Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(Refrain)

Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

3.) I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(Refrain)

Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

QUIZ BOWL

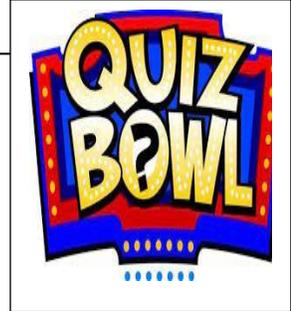
Question: Sunday, June 26, 2022

How many bells in the Bethlehem Tower?

Answer: It's one bell with a hammer.

Question: Sunday, July 3, 2022

Who are the missionaries in our church?



BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #733

1.) Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou chang-est not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

2.) Summer and winter and spring time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Refrain)

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

3.) Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

SYMPATHY

Greg Larson passed away on Thursday, June 23, 2022 in his home. Remember Greg's family in your prayers!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Where? Bethlehem Lutheran Church

When? July 10-14, 2022

What Time's? 5:30 am. - 8:30 pm.

** For more information, contact Brianna Leuthold
brianna.leuthold@gmail.com or visit Bethlehem website.

** VBS Registration forms are available in the narthex. **Ages Pre-K – 5th grade.

Need Volunteers & also CHECK OUT sign-up sheet on elevator door in the narthex for food items needed. A meal will be served each night!

Did you use an activity bag this morning?

If so please, do not hang up on the rack, leave in back pew so they can be refilled!

THANK YOU

